

INTERVIEW WITH ADDIE C. MULHOLLAND

March 12, 1977

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Miss Paula Boyer

Dodson: Mrs. Mulholland, I wonder if you could give us your full name and tell us how long you've lived here in the valley.

Mulholland: My name is Addie Camilia Mulholland. My maiden name was Haas.

Dodson: How long have you lived here?

Mulholland: Well, I'll tell you my age and that's how long I've lived here. I was eighty last November. [laughs]

Dodson: You're exactly the type of person we want to interview. You've had eighty years in this valley and we're very much interested in knowing who you are related to here.

Mulholland: You mean my immediate family?

Dodson: Your family how long they have been here and how they happen to come to the valley. Can you tell us those things and also something about your husbands family?

Mulholland: Yes. Alright, my mother and my father Stanley both homesteaded property in Calabasas. In about 1885.

Dodson: Is that right.

Mulholland: And uh my mother was married at nineteen. My father was older. He was nine years older than my mother at the time they were married. They had three children. I was the oldest. And my father farmed

his property. It was his fathers property and his property but he also was the road overseer so we never were dependant upon the farming operation alone like many people were. And he maintained and built the roads to the Ventura County line.

Dodson: What caused him to come to California?

Mulholland: Well, I don't, we never knew. His father came from Germany originally. They came down here from up around near Milpitas in northern California. Then I'm sure they must have been farming and saw the opportunity to develope more land.

Dodson: What sort of farming did they do?

Mulholland: Well, it was all dry farming. Hay mostly. Barley. Hay. And my father, as a younger man, had worked as a driver for the older Green Hotel in Pasadena.

Dodson: I've heard of that.

Mulholland: And so alot of this,[inaudible] but he always pastured many stock. Many horses. Many livery stable horses. And when we were very small children we couldn't even ride horses. They had donkeys as well. So we grew up on donkeys and then we were graduated to horses.

Dodson: Now that's interesting. No one else has told us about donkeys, or burros as you usually call them in the west.

Mulholland: Well, we rode em. It was the only transportation we had, but saddle horses, buggies, horses. I uh, [inaudible] that's because I remember it so well. We children rode bareback. We learned to ride bareback itself. That was the safest way you could slide off the horse. So one Christmas we all, the three of us, my sister and brother and I, decided we'd gang up and ask for a saddle and we thought we could take turns riding with the saddle. That Christmas each of us got a saddle and a bridle over the back of the chair by our beds and that, you know, that was just the highlight of our youth. [chuckles] A saddle and a bridle. My sister and I used to ride through Calabasas on a horse to take piano lessons. If you wanted to go that's the way you got there.

Dodson: How long did it take to ride into Los Angeles?

Mulholland: Well, my mothers family at that time was living in Studio City. They called it Lankershim then. We'd drive to Studio City and stay the night and then drive to Los Angeles the next day.

Dodson: That was a two day trip then?

Mulholland: It was a two day trip. I suppose you could make it in one day but it was a long way.

Dodson: Did you go to Los Angeles very frequently?

Mulholland: No.

Dodson: (both he and Mrs. Mulholland are talking at the same time. They are both inaudible.)

Mulholland: My father did. He was employed by the County Board of Supervisors. And he used to go to the city. In fact, when he went to the city he came back with a load of groceries. He'd stock up in the city but we didn't go. My mother went but not often.

Dodson: Were there many stores out in the west part of the valley at that time?

Mulholland: No. Going back to the early days, the only store was the one that my grandmother owned in Calabasas which later was known as the Weber store. It was opposite the schoolhouse in Calabasas and that was, the valley was just wheat field and barley and [inaudible] then.

Dodson: Is that stone building still standing by any chance?

Mulholland: No. It is not. [inaudible] Our home is still standing in Calabasas where I grew up but we used to be up on a little hill. Now the freeways gone through and there's no in to that place and they've pryed the fences off another street to try and get into it.

Dodson: Is that right.

Mulholland: but it's still standing. I can see it.  
It nearly bounds to where you come into  
Las Virgines canyon.

Dodson: What would be the address of that? I'm  
interested in some of the old houses  
that are still standing?

Boyer: Can we see it from the road?

Mulholland: You can see it from the road if you  
know what to look for but otherwise  
there's no address or least not one  
that I would know. I wouldn't know  
what to tell you.

Dodson: [laughing] I see.

Mulholland: There are many Eucalyptus trees around by  
this house. It's how it's identified really.  
This house is cut back in the Eucalyptus  
trees.

Boyer: They were there before, when you were a child?

Mulholland: Yes. My father planted them.

Dodson: Did your father build the house or was it  
already there?

Mulholland: No. No. You see, to homestead a place you  
had to improve the property in about five  
years. He did. And then my mother's family  
did the same thing and it is now, their property,

is now the animal cemetary in Calabasas.  
You know where that is.

Boyer: uh huh.

Dodson: There are some old structures also standing  
in Calabasas besides your house, I think.

Mulholland: Yes. The Leonis Adobe. That's a famous one.

Dodson: Are there one or two of those old stores  
still standing?

Mulholland: Yes. The uh, not the one that goes back  
as far as I mentioned. The later one is  
[inaudible] and across from the Leonis  
Adobe. It was originally called the  
Cooper's store and then he died and  
she married a Kramer and later it was  
known as the Kramer's store. I don't  
even know whether it's open anymore or  
not. I doubt it but its still, the building,  
it's still there.

Boyer: Calabasas is still fairly unsettled isn't it?

Mulholland: Yes.

Boyer: It's pretty western.

Mulholland: Yes. [inaudible] Calabasas was just something  
you laughed at.

Dodson: It's a little difficult for anything in Southern California to remain rustic nowadays.

Mulholland: Yes. You're right.

Boyer: Well, I have some friends that moved up there and really enjoy it because it is rustic.

Mulholland: Yes. Yes.

Boyer: I think there are more people moving out there for that reason. But now, what's gonna happen when everything becomes modernized? I don't know.

Mulholland: [response to the above question is inaudible]

Dodson: Well, you went to elementary school here then did you Mrs. Mulholland?

Mulholland: To the eighth grade in Calabasas and then I went to high school in 1911, and there was no high school out here so I lived for two years with my grandmother in Pasadena and went to Pasadena high school. Then, my folks in 1912 bought property, bought ten acres, on the corner of Shupe [sp ?] and Van Owen and had a home built and moved to Owensmount. And this, you ask [inaudible], this is my favorite.

Dodson: We'll be delighted to hear it. You go right ahead. That's what we want.

Mulholland: My grandfather heard that they were gonna build a town. That was Owensmount. He said, "well, they'll never make a go of it. There's too many red ants." [laughter is heard from all] That just tickled me so. I never forgot that. You can imagine. They're buildin this town and there's too many red ants. [chuckles] So then my folks had this home built and moved there, by nineteen, that was in 1912, the Southern Pacific built the red street cars out there. So I went to Hollywood high school my last two years on the red street cars from Owensmount. Never missed a day of school took a streetcar ride everyday. So then I went two years to the state Normal school from Owensmount so I spent four years going back and forth to school on the little red streetcars. We haven't had as good transportation since, neither.

Dodson: I think we all agree on that. The destruction of the red car was a tremendous loss to the community. Now, when you went to Normal school, that was what is now Los Angeles City College on Vermont wasn't it?

Mulholland: Yes.

Dodson: And the Normal school was moved out to Westwood and became U.C.L.A.

Mulholland: Yes, that's right.

Dodson: I don't think everyone knows the history of that change.

Mulholland: Well, that's what happened.

Dodson: Do you remember any of your elementary school teachers and what their names were when you went to school here in the valley?

Mulholland: Yes, I remember. I'm a little water-colored but my favorite, I think it was the fourth grade, her name was a Miss McGill [sp?] was the teacher at that time and she had been our teacher, but I don't remember many except an outstanding teacher that I had in my last year at high school called Esther Snider[sp?] She later married Doctor [inaudible] from San Fernando and they went to Africa as missionaries. But she was an outstanding teacher and she was there for a couple of years. She really was a wonderful teacher.

Dodson: Where was that school located Mrs. Mulholland? Do you remember the street number?

Mulholland: Uh, No. We didn't have streets. [laughter] We were out in the country. Dirt roads.

Dodson: Well, that's very interesting in itself that you can't tell me the street intersection because there were no streets. [laughing]

Mulholland: [laughing] Oh, you'd point and say that's where it was and its only been in the last few years that its been torn down. My grandfather, Algin, helped to build that schoolhouse in, perhaps, 1895.

Dodson: My, that's a shame that it's been torn down. It would be an interesting historical structure.

Mulholland: Yes. It was. It's too bad. Now, the Catholic church was preserved and it's a historical monument right up here by the [inaudible].

Dodson: Now, at the present time, is that open to the public or is it still closed?

Mulholland: Uh, I think it's still closed. The last time I was there the windows were still boarded. Vandalizim is such a problem. However, I did notice a little note in the paper where they'd had a wedding over there a couple of weeks ago so it could be available for use. I have to find out about it.

Dodson: I'm kind of anxious to go into it but it was my understanding that it was still closed.

Mulholland: Yes. Well, it's very interesting. It really is now a monument and [inaudible]

Dodson: Is that the oldest church in this part of the valley then?

Mulholland: Yes. I'm sure it is. I couldn't tell you the

day that they built it though.

Dodson: Can you tell us what sort of a social life you had as a teenager here in the valley? What did you do to have a good time?

Mulholland: You know, I thought about that, about your question, and I'm not a good one to talk to about that because you see, I was away for six years at school and so my social life was to get on the car and get to the school. That's the only thing I can remember. In<sup>2</sup> Calabasas my mother would hitch up an old horse to the buggy on Sunday morning and take us children over to Las Virgenes, five miles or more, to Sunday school that she and a Mrs. Creedy ran over there. Then we'd go back home and she'd unhitch the horse and go in and fix a big dinner for the family. That was our activities for Sunday. But here in Owensmount, I thought of that when I first looked at your list here, and again, we went to church every Sunday but I don't really know if, what the social life was.

Dodson: Did you have chores to do when your father had to farm?

Mulholland: Oh, yes.

Dodson: What sort of things did you do?

Mulholland: Oh, helping my mother. One time my mother and father were away and the superintendant came. He used to come and stay with us. And I never will forget, he couldn't get over the fact that my sister and I could bake bread. That's the only way we got bread. [laughs] So, we helped my mother. We did everything; cooking, sewing. Time I was [inaudible] I made my dresses. [inaudible] than I do now. [laughter]

Dodson: Have you given up bed breaking, uh, bread making now?

Mulholland: Oh, yes. [laughing] But we did all those chores and gathered the eggs and things like that. But not much, we couldn't have a garden for farming because we didn't have enough water. It was just dry farming.

Dodson: I see. Well, was there a water shortage at that time as well as now? Did you have problems then with water?

Mulholland: Well, we did in Calabasas. Then, we had to depend upon rain. In Owensmouth our first water source was a well that they pumped at the corner of Canoga and Sherman Way.

Dodson: In Calabasas you had no well then?

Mulholland: No. No, we had wells. We had a couple of springs on the ranch but the water was terribly hard. But we were dependent upon wells. We

had just enough water for domestic use. We used cisterns. We had two cisterns and we used them to catch rainwater. But we didn't have, oh maybe two or three little rose bushes and things of that kind. But we couldn't have any garden to grow vegetables for home use because we didn't have enough water.

Dodson: Now in Owensmouth the situation was different.

Mulholland: Yes. Well, we had our own well in Owensmouth. We pumped our water. But we were out quite a little ways. We were out past Topanga Canyon in Canoga Park but Owensmouth did have this well that supplied the town.

Dodson: Was that the general situation in the valley before the bringing in of the water from the Owens river? People had wells?

Mulholland: Oh, yes. And the only ranching, as I say, were the farming in Northern ranches. These big ranches that grew grain.

Boyer: So where would people have to go to get something to eat like their vegetables and stuff? Would your mother have to go into a town?

Mulholland: [laughing] You ate canned vegetables.

Boyer: Canned?

Mulholland: At that time Owensmouth, you see, Owensmouth

at that time was on the Southern Pacific line so they could have food shipped in. They would get stored.

Boyer: Uh huh. So when you were out in Calabasas

Mulholland: [interrupts Miss Boyer] No.

Dodson: What sort of a religious life did you have at that time? You mentioned going to Sunday school.

Mulholland: Uh, course in Calabasas that's the only kind of religious life we had.

Dodson: What denomination was that church? Was that the Methodist?

Mulholland: That was the Methodist. And it's kinda interesting that in Canoga Park, Owensmouth, it was a community church but I noticed that every minister they had was a Methodist minister. We had [inaudible]

Dodson: [laughing] It was a community church but the whole community was to be Methodist.  
Is that the way it was?

Mulholland: [laughing] Well, I [inaudible] I guess that was the thing to do then. But there was a Catholic church, uh, there were other churches later on, you know. There might have been some meetings in the homes before a church was

built in Canoga. The first being the old Southern Pacific depot. And then they activate [inaudible] I can't think, uh, I don't know if any, this first movie theater in Owensmouth was built. That was later on. I don't know anything about that.

Dodson: Well, now, can you tell us how you first met your husband and something about, uh, . . .

Mulholland: [interrupting] Yes. After I graduated from Normal School I taught for one year in Calabasas. And then I came over, I took the Civic examination that summer and was assigned to the Chatsworth school where I taught for three years and I was principal in my last year. And, uh, my good friends here in Chatsworth were named Hagerman [sp] and they knew my husband. So, then, it was a couple of years, 1919 I guess. I was asked to head the Liberty Bond drive in Chatsworth so we had a struggle. I'd get fifty cents or a dollar, maybe. So, I talked to Mr. Hagerman and I said, "you know, I'm just not getting anyplace with the Liberty Bond drive." He said, "I'll tell ya. I'll take you out to see Perry Mulholland." He said, "he ought to fix that." So we went out and my husband then was living on what we called the West Ranch on Maple avenue with a family that worked for him. So we came out in the car and we were introduced and Mr. Hagerman told him what I wanted and he said, "well, how much do you need?" And I told him an amount

that I don't even remember what it was now.  
And he gave me a check for that amount.  
And that's when I met him.

Dodson: Well, you were married after the time that the water first came in from the Owens. . .

Mulholland: [interrupting] Oh, yes. That came in in 19. . .

Dodson: [interrupts] 13.

Mulholland: 1913. I was married in 1921.

Dodson: Can you tell us some of your impressions of your father-in-law, William Mulholland?

Mulholland: Yes. Uh, he was a family man. He just loved his children and we'd come out every Sunday. He had one son still living at home. We'd drive out Sunday morning and whichever one was the baby at that time would just be put to bed when dad would get there he'd have to see the children. He'd always wake up the babies. [laughing] That I can remember. He was always a loving father and grandfather.

Dodson: And of course, he had made a name for himself not only with the construction of the Owens Valley aquaduct but bringing water from the Colorado river as well. Most of the people we've interviewed, when we've asked them what was the most important single thing in valley history was, they mentioned the bringing in of the water.

Mulholland: Well, that's what I wrote down on my list here and you asked me. I put down "water."

Dodson: You agree with that too?

Mulholland: Oh, the valley was semi-desert until we had water.

Dodson: I imagine Mr. Mulholland was very proud of that achievement, was he not?

Mulholland: Uh, yes, but you see he was a very modest man. You couldn't get him to say much about it.

Dodson: Is that right?

Mulholland: And the thing I remember most about his life is the tragedy of the Saint Francis Dam because that was, that just made an old man out of him overnight.

Dodson: Is that right?

Mulholland: Yes. He just, they had this court hearing and somebody got up and said, "well, look. Wasn't so and so to blame?" "And the people who worked should have seen it." He said, "it was human error and I'm the human that made it." He took the full responsibility for that Saint Francis Dam. And it took something out of him. He never rallied after that. He took it so hard.

Dodson: Is that right?

Mulholland: That was certainly a great tragedy.

Dodson: Did he feel that the dam was put in the wrong place, that uh, the supports for it weren't right? Do you recall his feeling on that?

Mulholland: No. He wasn't one to discuss it.

Dodson: I see. But it just, it did affect him?

Mulholland: The best thing that I know, I have a book on him that is good, but the best book about the water aquaduct that I could find is The Water Seakers by [authors name or name is inaudible] and it's a very unbiased, good description of the aquaduct.

Dodson: Has he left any good antecdotes about the construction that you remember?

Mulholland: Well.

Dodson: Those about the problems they had?

Mulholland: No, they [inuaidible] Dad didn't bring his work home. I mean, really, he didn't talk a great deal about it.

Dodson: Is that right?

Mulholland: He was a very modest man.

Dodson: He was engaged in such tremendous enterprizes then that I would have thought he'd have been

just full of them.

Mulholland: [interrupts] No.

Dodson: wanting to discuss them.

Mulholland: Now I remember, uh, [inaudible] I never lived with Perry's mother and after she died the oldest sister kept house for her father. And I heard some stories, "Dad walked to Washington and came home and got a clean collar and a tooth brush." [laughs] I'm sure he was just wrapped up in what he was doing. He never wanted to talk about it with the family.

Dodson: You weren't there in 1913 when the water was first turned on were you?

Mulholland: No. I was there in 1971 when it was made a National. In 1971 it was made a National Historic Monument.

Dodson: That's the place we call the Cascades out here.

Mulholland: I remember, that's the place where we had the celebration for the opening too.

Dodson: I see. Well, from everything I've been able to hear, that was quite an occasion.

Mulholland: It sure was.

Dodson: One figure I heard said there were about forty thousand people there.

Mulholland: I read that.

Dodson: And, uh, Mr. Mulholland, when the water went on said, "there it is. Take it." [laughing] I think that was one of the most eloquent speeches I've ever heard.

Mulholland: Well. Now, you see, when I knew him, I said he didn't talk about work at home. He just didn't [inaudible].

Dodson: How long did he live after that Saint Francis dam disaster?

Mulholland: Well, now let's see. He was, I'd say he was eighty. He died when he was eighty. That Saint Francis dam was 1928. I wrote that down here. That was when the Saint Francis dam collapsed. But dad was eighty when he died. He'd been sick along time before he died.

Dodson: Can you tell us about some of the historic events that you have witnessed in the valley? Your reaction to World War I, for instance. Do you remember that clearly or were you too young at that time?

Mulholland: Well, [laughs] I remember World War I. I don't remember too much. I remember World War I [laughs] knitting socks.

Boyer: For the service?

Mulholland: For the service. Uh, huh. But there wasn't,

I wasn't really too involved at that time. World War II, I worked for the Red Cross down at, uh, in the Family Service section for a couple of years and that was not always pleasant work having to notify families of the loss of some loved one, you know.

Dodson: That was one of your functions then, to take the message personally?

Boyer: [interjecting] That would be hard.

Mulholland: That was hard. One time I went up on the hill to a little woman in Encino. Didn't know her name. I knew her as a girl, didn't even know when she was married. I didn't recognize her but she recognized me and that was the hardest thing I ever had to do, tell her her husband had been killed. Here she was with a couple of little children at the time. It really brought the war home to you.

Dodson: That sort of thing really does much more than just looking at statistics in the paper.

Mulholland: Oh yes.

Dodson: Something of that kind.

Mulholland: Yes. Yes. You can read about disasters of thousands of people but when one or two are killed on your street then it's much more important to you.

Dodson: How have you reacted to earthquakes in the valley?

Now you've been here when we've had some rather severe ones in Southern California.

Mulholland: I just scream. [laughs]

Dodson: You mean acquaintance with a number of them still hasn't hardend you to them?

Mulholland: No! I remember this last one. I just pulled the covers above my eye's and stay in bed. And [inaudible] how dumb of you with the window right over your head.

Dodson: That's the '71 quake? Did you get much damage here in Chatsworth?

Mulholland: No. I didn't. One picture rolled off the wall onto the rug didn't even break. That's the only thing in my house. But there were neighbors not too far away who lost quite a few things off their shelf. There was no big damage of any kind. Sylmar's not too far from here either.

Dodson: Yes, I've heard some pretty good stories. One of the strangest ones was some people told us that the houses on one side of the street were badly damaged and the houses on the other side of the street they were not.

Mulholland: I heard something about that too.

Dodson: It's just hard to account for the way that it struck.

Mulholland: Um, but, but I was more frightened when the earth, when the earthquake was the fire over in the [inaudible] with these big embers blowing down here. Both my neighbors on either side of me got up on my roof and watered it down like they watered their own because it was really frightening.

Dodson: What year was that fire? Do you recall that? That was just a couple of years ago wasn't it?

Mulholland: Just a couple of years ago, yes.

Dodson: No one so far has mentioned fires to us and yet, that is important. It's a hazard in many parts of the valley.

Mulholland: I think so. And especially, like in the Porter section, they've built up in the hills there. They've lost a lot of homes in that fire. I think, to me, the earthquakes you have them, there's nothing you can do but with fires you can get busy and at least start watering things down. There we can do something.

Dodson: Now, has this part of the valley been subject to fires very much during your lifetime that you know of? Have there been any disasterous ones?

Mulholland: Oh, there's been lots of fires but I wouldn't say they've been disasterous. Just since I've been in Chatsworth I've known of a couple where

there have been homes destroyed but I don't know of any. . . . [tape ran out]

Dodson: Do you recall the Santa Barbara earthquake and whether you felt it? Or the Long Beach quake?

Mulholland: Well, uh, not bad. I mean, they were very mild. I wasn't very concerned about them because they were up in that area. The one in Sylmar is the only one that I ever felt was really [inaudible].

Dodson: Oh. Uh, we've run across a few people who were in the valley in 1906 at the time of the San Francisco earthquake and felt that one. You were here I guess but you were a very small child at that time.

Mulholland: Yes. I was here. I was in Calabasas at the time. I didn't know, I have no recollection of it and nobody's ever mentioned it that I can recall. I think I would have heard my parents talking about it. And I did hear people talking about it because Perry's sister lived up there and we'd go over to our close friends who live in Alameda, they lived in San Francisco at the time, and they've often told, they lived in a big two-story house, and their whole house, [inaudible] the children were on one side of the street and their parents were on the other side. And they moved to Alameda after that.

Dodson: Well, I've found that even on the Sylmar quake many parts of the valley weren't affected other

than just getting a jolt.

Mulholland: Ye, Yes.

Dodson: It was pretty well confined to the Northern part.

Mulholland: Yes, because we're relatively close to Sylmar and the damage, I mean, the damage here was just minor. Dishes falling out of the cupboards and like that. I didn't see any structural damage though.

Dodson: Now, we're being told that the Palmdale bulge means that we have another big earthquake coming. I imagine the future will wonder whether we're frightened about that. How do you feel about that?

Mulholland: Well, I, it isn't gonna frighten me at all because there's nothing we can do about it. I feel, maybe take things off the shelf because they're gonna fall because we really have no control over an earthquake. And, Palmdales quite a little ways from here. I did think, the other day when my daughter said she's gonna speak up there on the twenty-fifth and wanted me to go with her, I did think, well, I hope we don't have an earthquake up there that day. [laughs]

Dodson: [laughing] That would be quite a coincidence wouldn't it? To visit Palmdale on such a day as that.

Mulholland: I, I kinda learned that you have to take things as they come. Especially, if there's nothing you can do about em.

Dodson: Well, now, I've been doing alot of talking here and asking questions. Do you have some?

Boyer: No, not at the moment but I do want to say most of the people that we've talked to feel the same way you do. That with the earthquake there's nothing we can do about it so they don't really worry about it.

Mulholland: I think, if there's something we can pack, then we should make our effort but if there's nothing we can do then we'd better just go on our way and hope for the best.

Dodson: Can you think of any other important historical events in the history of the valley that you'd like to mention?

Mulholland: [after a long pause] Well, you did ask here how the city happened to, how the valley happened to join the city, or something.

Dodson: Yes.

Mulholland: That was in 1915, I think. They had an election and they voted in.

Dodson: Wasn't that the question of the water that caused them to join?

Mulholland: Oh! That was the whole thing. After the water

came in 1913, why naturally the valley wanted the water.

Dodson: Since we mentioned that, uh, I'm sure you are aware there is some cessation movement underway. How do you feel about that?

Mulholland: Well, all I know is what I see in the paper. And uh, I have no feeling about it to say. I feel I don't know enough about it. I'm quite content really. No one has approached me. I haven't talked to anybody personally. All I've seen is what I've read in the paper.

Dodson: We haven't, so far, come across anyone who said that he favored it. In fact, those that have expressed an opinion I think have been against it and I rather imagine that your father-in-law would've been against it.

Mulholland: I, uh, I, I think if I had to vote tomorrow, I think I'd vote against it but I don't feel that I am very well informed about it.

Boyer: Uhm. Were there ever any floods in Calabasas or Owensmouth?

Mulholland: No.

Boyer: No?

Mulholland: Oh! In Owensmouth, yes. Uh, I remember, I can't tell you the year, but I guess it was about 1940 or around that time. That was before they got

the drain in this side of the high school. Before they got that storm drain there. Van Owen used to flood very badly and I remember people used to get their cars so badly stalled that they used to have to rescue them out of there. And I also remember, at one time I had a woman, a housekeeper, when we were living in Northridge, lived down the street right across from the park, and that was before we got the drain in, and they rescued them in a rowboat one night. She told us that and I remember the time. But, other than that, I've never been around too much water, I guess.

Dodson: In this particular area, I imagine there would not be a flood problem. Would there?

Mulholland: Oh, I don't think so. Cause now there's all the storm drains in and , uh, course I was up here from 1918 to 1921 and there never had been flooding at that time.

Dodson: What do you regard as the greatest change in the valley during your lifetime? We've listed some possibilities here.

Mulholland: Uh, . . [interrupted]

Dodson: What are you most conscious of?

Mulholland: Well, again, that would depend on the change because the water, which has caused everything to change, really, you know in the way of

vegetation and planting and everything.

Dodson: I suppose without the water the valley couldn't have gained in population the way it has?

Mulholland: I can remember riding horseback in this valley from where there was a wheat field and on a hot day you'd get a perfect mirage on the road in front of ya. And that's all there was. There were very few trees. The few trees were around ranch buildings. The big ranch buildings like the Workman ranch.

Dodson: Do you remember the names of some of those big ranches that you could give us?

Mulholland: Well, I, uh, couldn't offhand tell you all of them but that's available anyplace. The Workman ranch is the one just west of Owensmouth. Which is now a city park with recreation. The [inaudible] and they sold it. I think, uh, I don't remember if there were five or seven of these ranches through the valley.

Dodson: Now, we still, of course, have the expression "Porter Ranch."

Mulholland: Yes.

Dodson: Is that part of what was once a big ranch belonging to the Porters?

Mulholland: To the Porter estate. To the Porter family.

That was just northeast of here. The entrance to the Porter estate was on Tampa and Devonshire. There are figures there. You probably saw a man on horseback and a couple of statues. That was the entrance to the Porter estate. And THAT was a big ranch.

Dodson: Are any members of that family still living in the valley, do you know?

Mulholland: No.

Dodson: We've found that so many of the old families aren't represented in the valley anymore.

Mulholland: And I don't know that the Porters ever lived in the valley. I couldn't say because I think they were originally from the north.

Dodson: Yes. I'm sure they were.

Mulholland: Yes.

Dodson: They and Senator McClay [sp ?] came down. There were two Porter brothers I think. I think Senator McClay did live in the. . .  
[interrupted]

Mulholland: San Fernando.

Dodson: Yes. In San Fernando. What do you think about the changes in fashion among the people in the valley since you've been here?

Mulholland: Fashion? Clothing fashion?

Dodson: Yes.

Mulholland: [no reply]

Dodson: You think there have been drastic changes there, and if so, have they been good or bad?

Mulholland: Well, I think fashion has undergone some vast changes but I don't think it's been any more than anyplace else. I think the trend has gone along with what ever has been fashionable for that time.

Dodson: Can you tell us about differences now and when you were in school on things like morality and narcotics. That sort of thing? You feel there have been vast changes there?

Mulholland: Yes. I can remember back in elementary school the worst things boys could do was to get some corn silk and cigarette papers and smoke em back of a shed where horses were kept. [giggling] When I grew up I never heard of marijuana or any kind of dope or drugs or anything like that. And even as late as when I was teaching school we had no drug problem with that kind of stuff.

Dodson: Now, one of the problems the schools suffer from is vandalism. Did you have any problems of that kind when you were principal of the school?

Mulholland: [softly] No. [pause] Course the only two schools I taught were in Calabasas and Chatsworth and there were no vandalism at all.

Dodson: Was there any type of a problem that was characteristic of the time when you were teaching?

Mulholland: Yes. You'll laugh when I tell you this, but it's true. The worst thing we had to do was rub [inaudible] in little kids heads and send them home and tell them not to come back until they got their hair washed.

[laughter]

Mulholland: They were full of nits. [hair lice]

Dodson: Is that so? [laughing] There wasn't enough hair washing in those days?

Mulholland: There was not. That wasn't all the children, of course, but more than one. We did it many times, I remember. I remember, when I was teaching in Calabasas we had an epidemic with Diphteria which was really very serious. And the county doctor came out to see the children. Closed the school. But, I don't know, I think kids had more chores to do then. I don't think they had as much idle time in those days.

Dodson: You think more was expected of them at home than is true now?

Mulholland: I think so.

Dodson: Of course, one difference might of been that you had more of a farm situation. They had animals to take care of and so on and more work to do

in the house in the way of cooking and baking?

Mulholland: That's true. But I know even when my children went, they went to elementary school in Winetka, [sp] and of course, at that time they was hard times and the children had an awful lot to do. They were busy. And I think, [chuckles] there was no standing around on street corners. You know?

Dodson: Yes. Well, now you've mentioned hard times. That, uh, brings up the question of the great depression beginning in 1929. Were you and your family very much affected by that?

Mulholland: No. Uh, I don't know. We, uh, we weren't. Uh, I'm trying to think. I can't offer any explanation.

Boyer: But there were families in the valley that were affected?

Mulholland: Oh yes. I remember, for instance, we'd pack extra lunches for our children to take to school to children who didn't bring a lunch to school. That early there weren't, uh, schools didn't serve hot breakfast, er, hot meals at school. I remember we used to pack extra lunches for the children to take to school and, of course, we'd take [inaudible]. And I do remember that, that, uh, I was P.T.A. President out in Winnetka for a couple of years about that time and I used to take oranges from our ranch, we had a big citrus ranch in Northridge,

to school and the kids clogged up the plumbing with orange peels so we had to quit giving them oranges. [laughs] And, uh, I, there was an awful lot of men out of work, I contacted that way through the school, the P.T.A. and all. I remember one time, there was such a nice little woman and she didn't want to belong to the P.T.A. and she had family and didn't have the money to pay her P.T.A. dues so she gave me her chicken and I paid her P.T.A. dues and she asked me if her husband could work on the ranch. I told her I'd have to ask my husband. Well, he'd been a mason and had been put out of work. Well, my husband very reluctantly hired him, cause he didn't know him, but he did and he was one of the best workers he ever had on the ranch. He was just a wonderful worker. And he'd been a mason. He'd never done any ranching before. But, them were hard times then.

Dodson: What sort of things were you raising on your ranch? That your husband owned?

Mulholland: Citrus and walnuts. We had about 720 acres with orchard, mostly citrus. I think we had about 80 acres of walnuts. 40 acres in grapefruit. The rest in navals and velencias.

Dodson: Speaking of walnuts, have you ever heard of pickled walnuts?

Mulholland: Yes, I have.

Dodson: [laughing] We first found out about that from one of the, uh, associates of the Lankershim family.

Mulholland: Oh?

Dodson: One of the Lankershims used to love pickled walnuts.

Mulholland: Pickled walnuts. I never tried pickling them but I've heard about it. You have to get em when they're green before they get hard.

Dodson: Well, at first I thought they were fooling us, having a joke at our expense.

Mulholland: No, no, I've heard of pickled walnuts.

Dodson: Apparently, they never caught on commercially. I've never seen them in the store.

Mulholland: I haven't either. They never appealed to me, I just heard about it.

Dodson: Well, that's a peculiarity we're going to have to get the recipe for. [laughter by all] Can you tell us how rationing during the war affected you? Was that much of a problem here in the valley?

Mulholland: Yes. I don't think it was any more in the valley than anyplace, course by that time we had good markets and butcher shops and I remember it used to be pretty hard to get enough meat to satisfy my family.

But we got by. I never had any complaints.

Dodson: There were never really any shortages that amounted to much or caused you much trouble?

Mulholland: No. No. There was nothing that I can remember. Inconvienience maybe more than anything else.

Dodson: What do you feel has been any possible change in the crime situation in the valley. Do you feel less safe now than you did say a quarter of a century or a half a century ago?

Mulholland: Yes, but I don't think, I think it's just a question of more people. More people you get more crime. [laugh] You know when you're isolated and with very few people there's less crime. There's more now, yes.

Dodson: Did you feel uneasy at that time in walking or riding around the valley at night?

Mulholland: Not at all. No. Never thought of it. There wasn't enough of it to make it any problem.

Dodson: So that would be a definite change?

Mulholland: Oh definitely, yes. I just touch wood everyday that I hope they don't find me out here. [laugh]

Dodson: Well, you seem to be in a very nice section, so. We're gonna trust that everything is all right in this part.

Mulholland: Oh, I'm trusting.

Boyer: I was wondering Mrs. Mulholland. If you think that the valley ever made any mistakes in terms of planning or anything that ever happened out here that wasn't good for the valley?

Mulholland: [after a long pause] I don't know how to answer that. [another long pause] I really, uh, you know, I really can't think of anything that's interesting. When I go back to think, uh, when Owensmouth was opened they really couldn't get a liquor license. And later on they were able to sell wine. So, the only trouble they had there was a question of a little bootlegger. And I did hear this story one time. Somebody told my daughter. This man came out with a suitcase and put it down on the sidewalk and went into her father's store, this was Mr. Hayden [sp ?], to take him home, which it seems he did. And they get there, back out on the sidewalk, and he said, "hey, your suitcase is leaking." [laughing] But that's the way they got their hard liquor. I don't know where he'd gotten it but he got it and was taking it home.

Dodson: Do you think there was much bootlegging in the valley during the prohibition era?

Mulholland: I think so. I don't know but I never really had any way of knowing other than what I'd hear, but I think there was some going on.

Kinda like everyplace else.

Boyer: Do you remember the flu epidemic?

Voice: I believe they considered it to be the [inaudible] flu, right?

Mulholland: 1918. I crossed my fingers. I didn't have it and my family didn't have it. I had no one that did that was close to me but I didn't know my husband either at that particular time and he was very ill with it. But I think, I suppose the valley was like everyplace else, there were cases. I didn't have any personal contact.

Dodson: Uh, it didn't make a big impression on you but there were a number of people who were sick?

Mulholland: No. No.

Dodson: Have you been nervous about it this year? What with the government pronouncements and the uh?

Mulholland: Well, I stood in line and I took the shot. I got no reaction from it so.

Dodson: So, you're protected now if it does develope?

Mulholland: I guess I am. That's why I took it. I hope I am. I didn't, I wasn't paralized from it so I guess I'm alright.

Dodson: Were you nervous afterwards when you read about those possible side effects?

Mulholland: Oh no. Naw, I got the shot. I got it on the first day at the Granada Hills health center. It's kinda like earthquakes. I guess I'm the kinda easy-go-lucky person but I do what I can and then hope for the best. So, I took the shot. That was it.

Dodson: Has there been, to your knowledge, any minority problems in the valley?

Mulholland: No. Very definitley not. I marked that on your list as a thing to say. That is one thing I haven't experienced even as a girl growing up. There were lots of Mexicans in shhool and it didn't make any difference if you were Mexican or if you weren't. In my teaching problem, I had two Japenese children in the seventh grade and they were good students, well liked. Nobody ever thought of them as being any different from the others but there were very few. I never had any blacks in school except for when I taught summer session down in Central just for the experience. So, there had been very, I would say no racial problems here.

Dodson: Now, of course again, one of our present controversies is over bussing. Do you have any opinion on that?

Mulholland: Well I don't approve of bussing children from one end of the city to the other. I think that money could be spent in better education instead of bussing. That's my opinion.

Dodson: Do you feel that that might cause tensions in the valley, this controversy over bussing?

Mulholland: I think so. I think lots of people got homes in the valley to get away from that and then it, the minorities are moved in and they're defeating the very purpose for which they moved out to the valley. I haven't any personal feelings about it because I've had no experience with it.

Dodson: There was no feelings against the Japanese residents of the valley during the war, do you remember that?

Mulholland: Well, yes. My mother had a Japanese gardner down in Studio City at the time and he was moved to Arizona to a concentration camp. I remember that she wrote to him and when he came back they were just so thrilled that there was somebody that didn't hold it against them, you know.

Dodson: Well, that's pretty much in line with what other people have told us. There was no feeling in the valley against the Japanese residents.

Mulholland: Yes.

Dodson: And, uh, most people have told us that they thought there were no minority tensions in the valley.

Mulholland: I've never witnessed any and I've had none of that experience when I was in school or when I was teaching.

Dodson: Did you know personally any of the families of some of our pioneers in the valley? You didn't come into contact with people like the Porters or McClays or Workmans or some of those people?

Mulholland: No. I didn't. I knew the Russells very well. The Russel ranch in [inaudible] which is now Woodlake. What is it? Woodlake?

Dodson: I think so. I'm not sure.

Mulholland: Perhaps it's Thousand Oaks but, uh, I really didn't. And, uh, Hubbard [sp?] used to come over and visit with my folks and I remember Hubbards was connected with the McClays and the Pórters and that group there.

Dodson: He was rather prominent in San Fernando?

Mulholland: San Fernando. He lived in San Fernando.

Dodson: Yes. There's a street named after him.

Mulholland: Yes. Yes, that's right. But, uh, he used to kiss us kids and we just had a fit. He had these great big whiskers and chewed tobacco.

Dodson: [laughing] So, his kiss made an impression.

Mulholland: Well, [laughing] I remember that.

Dodson: I wonder if you can tell us about the historic sites out in this part of the valley?

Mulholland: Well, of course, there's Stoney Point up here in Chatsworth. I don't know if the city's gonna get that or not. They're talking about it. It's a Landmark.

Dodson: Can you tell us exactly where that is? I've heard it mentioned and I'm not sure.

Mulholland: Yes. It's on the east side of Topanga just before you start up the grade to Simi. A rocky [inaudible] cliff there you can see right to the right if you go north.

Dodson: It wouldn't be very far from here then, would it?

Mulholland: No. No, of course not.

Dodson: Can you think of some others that are important sites?

Mulholland: Well, let's see. Course the one I'm most familiar with is the Leonis Adobe because they've been so active lately and I've been to so many things there. And now I understand that Larry Mulray [sp?] gallery has been accepted for an historical monument.

Dodson: What is the history of that?

Mulholland: Well, it was built originally for a stable. And then the owner made it over into a gallery and she had Mexican things in there. Mexican art.

Boyer: [Very softly. Almost inaudibly] What's the name again?

Mulholland: Hum?

Boyer: What's the name?

Mulholland: It's called the Canoga Mission Gallery. It's Mrs. Lederer's. Her husband is a retired actor you know. It's very nice.

Dodson: Where is that located?

Mulholland: It's on the west end of Sherman Way just across from the hospital. Just out Sherman Way. I don't know whether, I think that must be Pratt street just beyond. It turns at the hospital and then she's out just beyond the end of the street. I think that's Pratt [or Platt ? ] next to Sherman Way.

Dodson: Well, that sounded good. We are glad to know about these. Now, can you [interrupted]

Mulholland: [interrupting] she's open. What was it that I was gonna give you? [talking to herself] Oh, well, I'll give you it when you go. I forgot it. I had a lot of stuff about the Leo, I gave all this stuff to my daughter. Uh, I don't know

whether I can think of anything off hand.  
[inaudible] was talking to me the other day and she thought something ought to be done about the Knapp [sp?] home in Canoga Park. It should be made into a landmark. He was a swift that made this beautiful woodwork. He was a very unusual craftsman. Anyway. it's still standing and she said it should be a monument. But, it isn't and I don't know all about it.

Dodson: You, uh, know its location?

Mulholland: Yes, it's, uh, uh, on Jarden. Jarden. On the west side of Jarden and I couldn't tell you but it's just a different kind of place.

Dodson: And it's occupied now by private individuals is it?

Mulholland: I think the daughter did live there. When she did live there, I don't know. I don't know who lives there. It was just called to my attention the other day by this woman from D.A.R. That's why I brought it up.

Dodson: That was knapp did you say?

Mulholland: Knapp. K - n - a - p - p. [spelling it out.]

Dodson: Well, that's fine. We're delighted to hear about these places. In fact, the city is trying to locate places of historic importance to designate them as monuments so anything that we hear of we'd be

very glad to turn over to them.

Mulholland: Well, let's see. I can't think of any others.

[long pause] I can't think of any of them right now.

Dodson: Is there something in the way of an anecdote or something of that kind that you can think of that we haven't asked about at all?

Mulholland: No. I don't think I can.

Dodson: Thank you very much then Mrs. Mulholland.

You have been listening to an interview with Mrs. Addie C. Mulholland the widow of Mr. Perry Mulholland, son of the engineer William Mulholland. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Miss Paula Boyer, field deputy of the museum. The date is March 12, 1977. I might add that Mrs. Mulholland has very kindly presented to the museum a copy of the book, Calabasas Girls written by her daughter Katherine Mulholland. Mrs. Mulholland resides at this time at 9926 Leta Avenue, Chatsworth.